

Village Union at Balaramapuram.

481 *MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) how long is it since the Village Union at Balaramapuram has been constituted;

(b) which of the functions prescribed under the Statute have been undertaken by it up to the present; and

(c) what is the expenditure that has been incurred in connection with it up to the present?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: (a) Nearly five years.

(b) The Village Union has undertaken the following functions:—

(i) Construction, maintenance and improvement of tanks and wells.

(ii) The lighting of Public ways and road junctions.

(iii) The promotion and encouragement of handloom industries.

(c) Rs. 644-9-4.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether the honourable member is in a position to give the details of expenditure? I am referring to part (c) of the question.

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: I am not in a position to give details now. They have already spent Rs. 644-9-4. We do not usually call for details of expenditure and examine them. The Village Unions are statutory bodies.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether there is any audit of the accounts of these bodies?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Yes, the Examiner of Local Fund Accounts is auditing the accounts.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: The answer was given that Government do not examine the various items of expenditure. May I know the reasons therefor?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: They are local self-governing bodies constituted under a definite statute. Government do not want to interfere too much in their working.

MR. P. K. KURIAKOSE (*Muvattupuzha cum Devicollam*): May I know the total amount collected by the Village Unions so far?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: That information is not available now.

MR. T. K. NARAYANA PILLAI: May I know whether Government have satisfied themselves as to whether these Village Unions are properly working?

MR. C. P. GOPALA PANICKER: Government are not very much satisfied with their present method of working.

PRESIDENT: I suppose honourable members know that all these Village Unions have been taken away from the control of the revenue authorities and handed over to the Public Health Department. They

[President]

will try to get the co-operation of the local people and try to resuscitate the Unions. Government have been feeling that probably there is too much of red tape and routine connected with the administration of the Village Unions by the Revenue Department. So the Public Health Department has been entrusted with this work.

Bridge at Kollakadavu.

482 *MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: Will the Government be pleased to state:

(a) the year or years in which there was budget provision for the construction of a bridge at Kollakadavu on the Chengannur-Mavelikara road; and

(b) the amount spent out of such provisions in each year for actual construction?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN:

(a) In 1117 M. N.	Rs. 10,000
In 1118	Nil.
In 1119	Rs. 10,000
In 1120	Rs. 20,000

(b) No amount was spent in any of the years as the estimate was not finalised and sanctioned.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member why, in spite of budget provisions for three years the estimate has not been finalised and sanctioned?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: There has been a lot of correspondence about the designs and it is not finally decided.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know from the honourable member when the final estimate was submitted to Government by the Department?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: We submitted it once to Government, but it came back for revision.

MR. PULIYOOR T. P. VELAYUDHAN PILLAI: May I know when it was returned to the Department?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: About a month or six weeks ago.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know whether the Chief Engineer has realised the extreme necessity for a bridge at Kollakadavu?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: Certainly. It is very desirable.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: Not only desirable, but extremely necessary. Is he aware of that?

DEWAN BAHADUR L. VENKATAKRISHNAN: There are necessities in regard to every bridge.

MR. K. K. CHELLAPPAN PILLAI: May I know during these three years, how many bridges have been built by Government?